

APPROVED
10/12/2015

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Senate Executive Committee
Minutes
Monday, September 14, 2015

Present: Chair Gay Miller, Vice Chair Kim Graber, Abbas Aminmansour, Michael Bohlmann, Nicholas Burbules, Bettina Francis, John Hart, Matthew Hill, Calvin Lear, William Maher, Anita Mixon, Kathryn Oberdeck, David O'Brien, Michael Sandretto

Absent: Matthew Wheeler

Guests: Interim Chancellor Barbara Wilson, Associate Chancellor Reginald Alston, Associate Professor of History Teresa Barnes, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Policies Abbas Benmamoun, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Edward Feser, Associate Provost for Administrative Affairs Katherine Galvin, AAUP Local Chapter President Harry Hilton, Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs Robin Kaler, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature Harriet Murav, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Renee Romano, Vice Chancellor for Research Peter Schiffer, History Professor Mark Steinberg, Academic Human Resources Director Deborah Stone

Media: Daily Illini – Maggie Sullivan, Inside Illinois – Mike Helenthal

A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:11 pm on Monday, September 14, 2015 in 232 English Building, with Chair Miller presiding.

1. Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from August 24, 2015 and August 31, 2015 were approved as distributed.

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Miller welcomed Interim Chancellor Wilson and Interim Provost Feser. Chair Miller mentioned that the search for a dean for the College of Medicine would be opening soon. Miller also noted the upcoming Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology symposium that will be held on September 19-20, 2015.

4. Chancellor's Remarks

Chancellor Wilson noted some of the freshman class statistics. There are 7,565 new freshmen which is up 9.1% from last year and the second-largest freshman class ever; 1,383 new transfer students which is up 1.5%; Illinois residents have increased 11% from last year; all categories of underrepresented students have increased; one in five students are the first in their family to attend college; ACT scores went down slightly, but are holding steady; and 1103 international students. The World News and Report rankings were released. Illinois is in a five-way tie at spot 41. A big portion of rankings is reputation.

Wilson introduced Ed Feser. Feser was appointed as Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Wilson also announced that 120 new tenure system faculty were hired. The Daily Illini reported that there was a hiring freeze. The hiring freeze is at the University Administration level. At the campus level there are 70 searches that were carried forward from last year. An additional 50 faculty searches have been approved. An estimated 60% of searches are successful. Academic Professional and Civil Service classified positions are only approved if there are vacancies.

Wilson described a new college scorecard that the White House has launched – www.collegescorecard.ed.gov. The scorecard is meant to assist students and parents when making decisions about which institution to attend. Illinois is listed on the homepage under "15 public four-year colleges with high graduation leading to high incomes". Wilson is proud that Illinois is in the top 15.

The new College of Medicine (COM) is moving forward. One of the next steps is to open a search for the dean. Wilson invited suggestions for search committee members and asked that names be forwarded to Provost Feser within the next week or two.

Wilson stated that lifting the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) censure is important and will be working hard on this issue.

There is still no state budget. President Killeen met with other presidents of institution of higher education in Illinois and is trying to promote discussion on the huge value of higher education.

5. Old Business

A. **SC.15.12 Open Access to Research Articles**

The Senate Committee on the Library and the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP) have both given advice to the SEC. A document will be brought forward to the next Senate meeting.

B. **SC.15.13 Background Checks**

Provost Feser announced that the Board of Trustees (BOT) approved the Background Check Policy last week and the policy will take effect October 5, 2015. The policy is at the university level, but the implementation procedures will be developed at the campus level. A lot of hard work has gone into the development of an implementation plan to protect the search process but also to meet the university policy document.

Benmamoun presented information on the policy and the anticipated implementation plan for the Urbana campus through a PowerPoint presentation*. The background check would occur after a contingent offer letter was sent and the person authorized the check. Stone added that if the candidate declines, then hiring cannot proceed.

Campus Human Resources will notify the department if a candidate is internal and that the department can continue the search process without a background check. GIS, the third party vendor performing the checks, has stated that after the candidate gives authorization it would be able to provide the background check report within three days.

Units will not have access to conviction information. The unit would be notified that the candidate failed the background check. Stone added that it is required by law to give the candidate a chance to respond to anything listed on the background check report. The candidate can share however much information they choose, but the review committee does not share any information.

Stone added that each case is considered on an individual basis and criteria such as experience since the conviction, the age the conviction was committed, and if the conviction is relevant to the specific job description will be used to determine if there is a nexus.

A suggestion was made to have the Office of the Provost develop language that the executive officers (EO) can use when communicating about candidates and background checks.

Concern was expressed about collecting of data. Galvin noted that all criminal conviction data is coming from public records. Benmamoun added that no background check information would be stored in HireTouch (the campus HR system).

The review committee will only meet as needed. Review committee members will be suggested by the Senate and Deans similar to the process for selecting member of the Campus Promotions and Tenure Committee. Stone also noted that the current committee meets weekly, but the new processes states "as needed" in case the committee needs to meet more frequently in order to keep the hiring process moving forward. The decision-making by the committee is done by consensus, not vote.

SEC members made suggestions for faculty inclusion on the committee. One approach would be to have a pool of faculty to choose from and only 2 would be brought in per case. Another suggestion was made to instate a rule that no decisions are made on a faculty search if no faculty members are available to serve on particular case.

C. SC.15.14 Assessment of the *ad hoc* Licensing Advisory Committee

Burbules, Chair of GUP, reported that GUP met with LAC (Licensing Advisory Committee) Chair Leslie Wexler and discussed what items were currently under consideration by LAC. A lengthy discussion surrounded the question of whether the LAC should become a standing committee of the Senate. Burbules noted that GUP will most likely recommend expanding the committee charge and also recommend LAC become a standing committee. Wexler will be involved in crafting proposed language for the expanded charge.

D. SC.15.15 International Programs and Studies Name Change

Francis, Chair of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC) reported that EPC reviewed and approved the proposal to change the name of International Programs and Studies to Illinois International. The proposal will appear on the consent agenda for the September 21 Senate meeting.

E. SC.16.03 Chancellor Search Process

Mixon stated that according to state law, whenever the board of trustees establishes a search committee to fill the position of chancellor at any campus of the University of Illinois, there shall be minority representation, including women, on that search committee.

Mixon made a motion to reconsider adding the phrase “from the remaining pool of nominees to help ensure diversity”. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. A motion was made to close debate. The motion was seconded and approved. The motion to reconsider requires a 2/3 vote which was achieved. Discussion continued on what language to use to achieve diversity on the committee and to follow the state law. A suggestion was made to first elect the minority faculty member with the highest number of votes and the woman faculty member with the highest number of votes, and then select the rest of the faculty by highest number of votes.

SEC members revised and approved the section for faculty representation to read:

Faculty (8): Committee on Committees will nominate 12 to 14 members of the faculty electorate (see Senate *Constitution* Article II for definition of faculty electorate). Faculty senators will elect seven faculty with no more than two from the same college, and in accordance with the diversity requirements of Sec. 4.1 of the University of Illinois Act (110 ILCS 305). If the seven members chosen by Senate vote do not meet these criteria, then the female faculty member receiving the most votes and in addition the minority faculty member receiving the most votes will be added to the committee first, followed by the remaining five members according to the vote, with no more than two from the same college. The remaining one faculty member chosen as noted above.

F. SC.16.09 Presidential Retreat for USC

Burbules noted that the retreat is the University Senates Conference (USC) Retreat. Burbules did not anticipate anything coming out of the retreat. Wheeler, as USC representative to the SEC, will report to the SEC if there are any items to report.

G. SC.16.11 Freedom of Expression Letter from FIRE

O’Brien, Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AFT) reported that AFT has not have the opportunity to hold a meeting.

6. New Business

A. Setting of the September 21, 2015 Senate Agenda

Burbules moved that the SEC recommend to the authors of RS.16.01 the removal of paragraph three from the resolution. The motion was seconded and discussion followed.

Aminmansour made a motion to end debate. The motion was seconded and debate was closed. The motion to formally offer advice to the authors of RS.16.01 was defeated.

Burbules moved to approve the September 21 Senate agenda as amended. The motion was seconded and approved.

B. SC.16.07 Learning Lessons from the Last Year

Aminmansour requested this item be removed from the agenda.

C. SC.16.08 Campus-wide Advice on the Proper use of Electronic Communications for University Business

Hart distributed a document titled "Electronic Communications: Restatement of Relevant Policies and Principles"*. This document serves as a guide to finding policies on electronic communications. Hart noted that the document will eventually be posted on the CIO (chief information officer) website.

D. SC.16.12 Coal Divestiture

Chair Miller would like to share the coal divestiture document that Wexler discussed at an SEC meeting this pasts spring at the next Senate meeting.

7. Announcements/Verbal Reports for Information

A. Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits update on Pensions

On behalf of the Chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits, John Kindt, Chair Miller read an excerpt from Kindt's email.

...the news is beginning to percolate that Illinois Attorney General Madigan has decided not to appeal the Illinois Supreme Court's unanimous decision which held S.B. 1 unconstitutional. To refresh your memory, in July AG Madigan's office requested that the U.S. Supreme Court extend the State of Illinois' time to appeal to September 10 which was granted by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Given the procedural surprises that often come from Springfield decision makers, we are awaiting confirmation of AG Madigan's decision, but at this point it appears that Illinois will not be appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kindt requested five minutes to give a brief update at the September 21 Senate meeting.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26pm.

Jenny Roether
Clerk of the Senate

*Filed with the Senate Clerk and incorporated by reference in these minutes.